

PALMETTO

The Newsletter of the
South Carolina Public Health
Reserve Corps.

PREPAREDNESS



South Carolina Public Health Reserve Corps and Captain Patrick Denis of the Medical Reserve Corps

2017 SC Healthcare Preparedness Program Summit

The 2017 SC Healthcare Preparedness Program Partnering For Preparedness conference sponsored by the South Carolina Society for Healthcare Emergency Management and DHEC provided a great opportunity for Public Health Reserve Corps (PHRC) volunteers to engage with Healthcare Coalition partners and share best practices and strategies for building stronger, more resilient communities. Captain Patrick Denis, Executive Officer of the national Medical Reserve Corps program, was able to join us and presented on how MRCs across the nation are teaming up with local hospitals to support surge and increase response capabilities. We were honored to spend a couple of days with Captain Denis and enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with other PHRC volunteers from across the state.



Your Impact Matters!

From January 1 through November 30, 2017, South Carolina Public Health Reserve Corps volunteers donated a total of 2,700 volunteer hours and saved South Carolina \$84,813.62 dollars! By donating your expertise and assistance at a time when it is most needed, you are making a meaningful impact in your community! Please join us in 2018 as we seek to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians. Contact your local Volunteer Coordinator to find out how you can get involved!

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Persons with Access and Functional Needs (PAFN) Emergency Preparedness Survey Project

A special thanks to all PHRC volunteers who participated in the PAFN project that took place on June 10, 17 and 24th, 2017. We reached 268 homes, spoke with 144 individuals about their emergency plans, and conducted 24 phone and 31 on-line surveys.

We covered many miles throughout Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Charleston, Georgetown and North Myrtle Beach counties to provide much-needed preparedness information to individuals confronted with the possibility of coastal flooding and hurricanes.

We owe our success to you! Thank you for your commitment to the PHRC and the residents of South Carolina!

2017-2018 South Carolina Oral Health Statewide Screening: Every Smile Counts

In October 2017 DHEC's Division of Oral Health began conducting dental assessments on kindergarten and third-grade students in selected schools across the state. In order to receive an adequate sampling for reporting purposes, DHEC's Division of Oral Health will need to assess approximately 25,000 children. The results of the assessments will help DHEC gain valuable public health insight into the oral health status of South Carolina's children, evaluate the impact of the state's preventive oral health programs, and assess the need for any additional dental programs.

The assessment will take place in two phases. Phase one began in October and will continue through mid-December in the Midlands and Upstate. Phase two begins January 2018 and will run through March in the Pee Dee and Lowcountry.

Dentists, physicians, nurses and other licensed health care providers are especially needed to help screen. In order to screen for the Oral Health Needs Assessment, the volunteer must complete a short online training provided by DHEC.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact your PHRC Volunteer Coordinator for further details.



South Carolina Veterinary Reserve Corps (SCVRC)

By Marie Queen and Charlotte Krugler, DVM

The SC Veterinary Reserve Corps (SCVRC) continues to increase its volunteer membership roll.

To complete the activities afforded by the 2016 NACCHO grant, six regional Florida SARC Small Animal Emergency Shelter courses were completed in April. A total of 85 people attended the training and can now help in their respective county emergency managers in the event that a temporary emergency pet shelter needs to be set up to assist evacuees with pets. In addition, each of the six host counties received about 16 large, collapsible wire pet crates.

The SCVRC unit was also fortunate to receive a 2017 grant from NACCHO. Two trainings are planned for early 2018: technical large animal emergency rescue (awareness level) and small animal slack water rescue.

SCVRC is led by the SC Association of Veterinarians (SCAV) with assistance from Animal Health Programs staff from Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health (CULPH). CULPH leads the state Emergency Support Function (ESF)-17: Animals/Agriculture Emergency Response as part of South Carolina's Emergency Operations Plan and SCAV is a critical support agency for ESF-17. The main goal of the SCVRC is to augment South Carolina's MRC units by developing and training a volunteer group to help people with animal- and agriculture-related issues during disasters.

For more information please contact:

Ms. Marie Queen, Unit Leader
South Carolina Association of Veterinarians
PO Box 11766, Columbia, SC 29211

Marie.queen@scav.org
803-254-1027

SC Upstate PHRC

By Joanne Hobbick, Volunteer Coordinator

Dear Upstate PHRC volunteers, over the past five years our unit has participated in the development, planning and training for a Mass Fatality and Family Assistance Center (FAC). You have attended conferences, trainings and finally an exercise that will make our region more capable of setting up a Family Assistance Center. Thank you for volunteering your time and expertise to assist our Upstate Healthcare Coalitions goals and the coroners of the upstate region.

Improving Mass Fatality Management In The Upstate South Carolina: Family Assistance Center Training

APRIL 18, 2017

This year's training built on the mass fatality foundation course offered last year. Training focused on the job descriptions Family Assistance Center staff and volunteers would be assigned when helping at a Family Assistance Center during a mass fatality: Phone bank training, interview and intake training, case management, pastoral care, and behavioral health. A great shout out to PHRC volunteers attending the training: Royce Addis, James Abbott, Latasha Bomar, Hannah Coulson, Maria Drummond, Donna Duncan, Phil Henry, Karen Hubbard, Norma Hughes, Shiela Kaiser, Elizabeth Koester, Stacie Marquis, Debra Pruestel, Amber Pennington, and Thomas Weir.

August 25, 2017

The second training on August 25, 2017, was a Family Assistance Center exercise developed by the Upstate Coalition's subcommittee Mass Fatality. The exercise was an opportunity to fine tune the region's FAC plan and all exercise participants were asked to provide their professional input.



(From L to R) Dr. Hannah Coulson, Karen Hubbard, and Latasha Bomar work at the family registration table.



Registered Nurse Norma Hughes works at the phone center of the Family Assistance Center.

Volunteers working at the FAC exercise but not shown: Sheila Kaiser EMT, Stacie Marquis ADM, Amber Pennington LMSW, Debbie Pruestel EMT, Ann Regucci RN, Tom Weir Amateur Radio. Ann Sports, Volunteer Coordinator PHRC.

Volunteers' Notes from the Field

Family Assistance Center Exercise

by Karen Hubbard

(Program Manager I/Area Administrator for SCDHHS-Community Long Term Care-Spartanburg two years, has worked with CLTC for 20 years.)

During the recent Family Assistance Center exercise, I worked at the registration table. As this was the first Family Assistance Center exercise, this was a great learning experience in what does and doesn't work with this extremely vital part of a mass fatality or mass casualty event. Ensuring that family members are cared for in the best manner and that information is disseminated accurately, timely, and sensitively is crucial. I am in awe of the amount of effort put into the exercise and how seriously the responsible agencies take this charge. While no one wants an event that requires Family Assistance Centers, it is comforting that taking care of families is such a high priority in managing these events.

Healthcare Preparedness Conference

by Allen Barbare

(PHRC volunteer 10 years, DSS Caseworker 12 years then DSS County Director, 13 years Piedmont Technical College; teaching Human Services. Currently, Shelter Care Program Director at Connie Maxwell Children's Home.)

Even though I don't work in a medical or emergency management field, much of the information presented either was indirectly related to my work or generated my thinking of our potential situations during a disaster. With a campus of 50 to 60 children, house parents, and many resident staff, emergency management and being prepared is a major issue. Hearing about the

plans medical facilities must have, I wanted to learn more about my organization's plans. Our campus is bordered by a railway switching yard, which presents the possibility of incidents that would require evacuation or at least safety procedures be in place. In relation to this I also spoke with a vendor for emergency notification systems to assess the feasibility for our campus. This conference inspired me to ask questions of our agency and our preparedness.

Disaster Medical System (NDMS), 11 volunteers assisted with triaging patients and communicating with statewide partners during movement of those patients to local NDMS hospitals.

2017 SC Healthcare Preparedness Program

Congratulations to the following Upstate PHRC volunteers who received scholarships to attend the 2017 Partnering for Preparedness Conference held in Columbia, SC on May 25-26, 2017.



(Front row L to R: Allen Barbare LMSW, Denise Bauld RN, Amber Pennington LMSW. Back Row L to R; Patricia Ryan-Kissam RN, Johnny Johnson EMT, Captain Patrick Denis USPHS MRC OEM, Joanne Hobbick, Volunteer Coordinator)

Welcome On Board Upstate PHRC New Volunteers!

Brian Washburn, MD
(Greenville)

Paula Vines, RN
(Greenville)

Lucy Traxler, MD
(Greenville)

Cynthia Pipes, RN
(Spartanburg)

Hannah Coulson, DO
(Spartanburg)

Krysta Luzynski,
(Greenville)

Sheila Kaiser, EMT
(Anderson)

Betty Haygood ADM
(Greenville)

Michelle Sanders, EMT
(Greenville)

Julie Anderson, RN
(Greenville)

Royce Addis, Clergy
(Pickens)

Valentina Martinez,
(Anderson)

Stacie Marquis, ADM
(Greenville)

Craig Metcalf, RN
(Greenville)

Johnny Dias, MDO
(Greenville)

Deborah Vanderveer,
LMSW (Greenville)

SOLAR CALL DOWN DRILL:

Thank you to all Upstate PHRC volunteers who responded during our call down drill. Your responses are very important. When you report back during a drill we are able to identify how well volunteers receive our messages and the timeliness of responses. This information helps us moving forward to know how well prepared we are to respond and assist in emergencies.



SC Midlands Region PHRC

By Scott Phillips, Volunteer Coordinator

As I sit here completing this, the cleanup from Hurricane Irma has only begun and Hurricanes Lee and Maria are slowly churning in the Atlantic Ocean. These are reminders of how important it is to have fully trained and deployable volunteers ready to go at a moment's notice. We definitely have that in the Midlands Region.

Recent Activities

The following are events Midlands PHRC volunteers have participated in since the beginning of 2017. Although the last few years have kept the unit busy with real-life events (2015 Flood and Hurricane Matthew), the continuous dedication of PHRC volunteers to attend meetings, trainings, and exercises does not go unnoticed. We have already accumulated 32 activities so far, which translates to almost one per week. Think about that, volunteers are assisting their community and state on an average basis of once a week. Great job!!!

SCHEART Training Net

Conducted on a weekly basis at 9 AM, this training net for Amateur Radio Operators (HAM) is a mainstay for

response activities. Volunteers regularly check in on the net to make sure their radios and the repeaters in their area are functioning correctly. As an Amateur Radio Operator myself (KK4TFN), I too regularly participate in the training net. Many thanks go out to the Aiken Region Medical Center for regularly controlling the net.

Medical Countermeasure (MCM) Statewide Call-Down Drill

On March 6, 2017, 46 Midlands PHRC volunteers responded to a statewide call down to gauge their availability to staff a Point of Dispensing (POD) to distribute an emergency vaccine.

University of South Carolina Mass Casualty Triage Exercise

On April 4, 2017, an exercise was held to validate an "app" to help hospitals better determine if a mass casualty incident may have occurred. Four volunteers either evaluated or participated in some way to make the exercise a success.

University of South Carolina Safety Day

May 16, 2017. Held every spring at USC, two volunteers assisted in putting up and tearing down a POD on campus. USC staff were taught about the POD and how it would be able to vaccinate or distribute medicine to students and staff if needed during an emergency.



2017 SC Healthcare Preparedness Program Conference

Having the opportunity to network with other professionals in the preparedness world, six Midlands PHRC volunteers attended the two-day conference. Not only did they get to network, they were actively engaged by the speakers who spoke on topics ranging from Public Health Preparedness to Behavioral Health to Infectious Disease.



Vulnerable Population Survey Conducted on June 10, 17 and 24, 2017

Six Midlands PHRC volunteers were able to assist with a survey on the coast dealing with vulnerable populations by either being an Amateur Radio Operator for the survey or placing calls from Columbia to complete the survey. Two volunteers made the trek to the Pee Dee Region and spent the night before spending all of the next day in a vehicle going door-to-door in a chosen area. Four volunteers over the next two weekends placed calls to those willing to participate in the survey and asked questions such as how many people were in the household and whether the participants had pets.



CPR/AED Class

July 8, 2017 — An annual tradition and way of giving back, six volunteers crawled out of bed on an early Saturday morning to be certified in CPR/AED. This marks the fifth year we have provided this opportunity to the volunteers and we hope to continue it into the future.

Upcoming Activities

As this newsletter goes to press we are looking at busy months in October and November.

Scheduled this fall are the annual DHEC Employee Flu Shot clinics, an Oral Health Needs Assessment through the Division of Oral Health, and the University of South Carolina Flu Clinic.

What is wonderful about these opportunities is they are the result of past exemplary performance by volunteers and, as a result, volunteers have been asked year after year to fill these roles. Again, great job!!

In Memoriam

This past year has seen the passing of two volunteers — E. Lee Griggs and John Culbertson. Both of them were integral parts of our Midlands PHRC unit and will be missed.

Pee Dee Region Public Health Reserve Corps

By Jenny Latour, Volunteer Coordinator

Medical Needs Survey

On June 10, 2017, several volunteers joined together to conduct an outreach survey to provide emergency preparedness information to people living at home with medical needs in our coastal communities. This project gave us an opportunity to help prepare some of the most vulnerable people in our communities for disasters, such as Hurricane Matthew. Each team included volunteers who were amateur radio operators, so that we could keep track of the team's progress. This was the first time we conducted a project like this. Special thanks to all who participated!



Volunteers: Sharon Black, William Cheney, Michael Craven, Pam Craven, Larry Dorman, Faye Dorman, Phyllis Douglas, Luz Elena Kuhler, David McGlothlin, Linda McKeen, George Mudd, Julie Ann Schroll, Florence Uchendu, Candy Waters, Margaret Martin, Tony Hobbick, Gary Lennert, Craig Scott. Special thanks also to the Midway Fire Department in Georgetown County and Chief Doug Eggiman for giving us space to set up Net Control.

Redundant Communications Exercise

Communications outages are one of the most disruptive problems to deal with during an emergency. Establishing redundant systems to ensure continued communication is a must! On April 13, 2017, PHRC volunteers worked in concert with Healthcare Coalition partners in 11 local hospitals to conduct an exercise, testing the ability to communicate with amateur radio. The exercise demonstrated readiness in those facilities and helped identify opportunities to improve equipment or processes. Kudos to all! Thank you to PHRC volunteers: George Mudd (Net Control), Mike Craven, Pam Craven, David McGlothlin, Michal Ferber, Ann Flynn, James Lewis. Thanks also to amateur radio operators Gary Burleson, Scott Phillips and Gabe Turner.

H.B. Robinson Nuclear Exercise

Every two years a simulated emergency occurs at the H.B. Robinson Nuclear Plant. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental control (DHEC) responds to provide potassium iodide (K.I.) to people potentially exposed to radiation. A team was assembled on May 4 at the Florence Civic Center to demonstrate K.I. distribution, and was observed by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluators. We received high marks for the day!

Special thanks to volunteers Ashley Altman, (Team Leader!) Shari Clarke (Health Consultant), and K.I. Distributors Pam Craven, Sonya McDaniel and Janyce Smith for your participation!



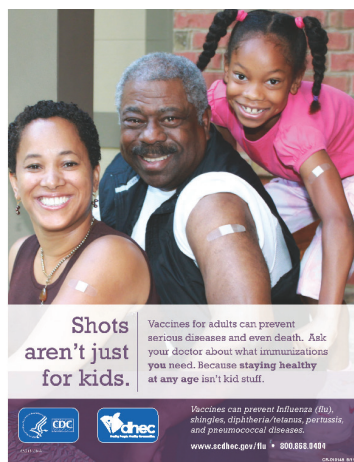
Fall Flu Vaccination Clinics

Influenza results in hospitalizations of thousands of people each year — and some deaths. This fall DHEC is launching a new campaign to provide flu shots to children through school-based vaccination clinics.

PHRC volunteer nurses and administrative volunteers will be asked to join the teams and take part in this critical effort to keep children and families healthy.

If you would like more information on flu, please check out our

website at <http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/InfectiousDiseases/Flu/>



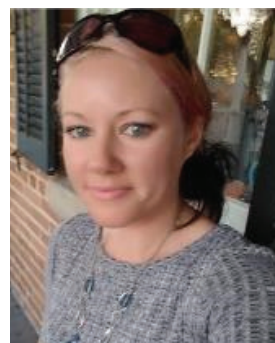
Hurricane Expo

Dorchester County Lowes held their annual Hurricane Expo on June 3, 2017. A PHRC exhibit sharing emergency preparedness information as well as recruiting for volunteers was staffed by PHRC volunteers and HOSA students from Ashley Ridge High School. The event was a success.



Persons with Access and Functional Needs Emergency Preparedness Survey

by Mary Ann Porter



On June 17, I had the opportunity to volunteer through the Public Health Reserve Corps and participate in the Persons with Access and Functional Needs Emergency Preparedness survey through DHEC. It was a great experience to be a part of this community outreach effort. As a home

health clinician, I know the importance of preparing people with medical conditions and special needs for an environmental emergency or disaster. I also feel we all can improve our emergency preparedness plans, especially since a lot of us live in the Lowcountry, in and around coastal communities.

My partner Alan, is a retired hospital administrator and current Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainer, who just so happened to live for many years at our assigned location of James Island. Alan was able to easily navigate us around James Island while I drove so we could reach each destination timely. I could tell from Alan's historic and current knowledge of James Island and the residents, emergency preparedness is very important to him as well. The residents of James Island were very welcoming and grateful for us assisting and supporting the community in emergency preparedness. We provided each resident we spoke with information

2017 SC Healthcare Preparedness Program

Speakers for the Partnering for Preparedness Summit held in Columbia, May 25-26, 2017, included Captain Patrick Denis, Executive Officer, of Medical Reserve Corp Program and Lindy Williamson, PHRC Lowcountry Volunteer. Five Lowcountry PHRC volunteers attended the conference.

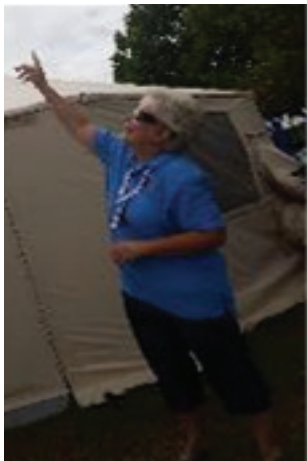


about preparing for an emergency and asked if they would like to conduct the survey online or if they were agreeable for the call center to call them to complete it.

Through the surveying of residents, I am hopeful emergency/medical professionals can be more efficient and adequate in serving the community in the event of an emergency. I look forward to being able to participate in more of these initiatives in the future through the Public Health Reserve Corps.

Total Solar Eclipse Event

On August 21, 2017, downtown Charleston experienced the total solar eclipse. The whole continent experienced a partial eclipse lasting two to three hours. People within a 70-mile-wide path from Oregon to South Carolina experienced a brief total eclipse for up to 2 minutes, 40 seconds. Two Western Shelter tents were set up in downtown Charleston (Maritime Center and Marion Square), where firefighters/paramedics from the City of Charleston Fire Department were ready to assist citizens and tourists with first aid, water, or to simply help them get out of the heat. Thank you Barbara Nyenhuis, Margaret Martin, and Lori McFadden for volunteering to assist!



Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA)

By the Ashley Ridge High School Health HOSA Team

The Ashley Ridge High School, Dorchester County School District 2, HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) MRC partnership had big shoes to fill this year. The HOSA team had great success at the state level and qualified for HOSA's International Leadership Conference.

Going into the second year of HOSA/MRC partnership, we thought: "What can we do to better impact our community, our relationship and understanding of the MRC?"



Our partnership team, Mrs. Elwood, and Mrs. Sports began planning at the beginning of last summer and continued throughout this past year. Here are some of the events that we are proud of:

- Hygiene Drive
- Hand-washing education
- Cookie drive with preparedness information labels
- MRC scavenger hunt

Competing and winning at the SC State Conference filled us with pride and motivated us to plan more activities that were aligned with the MRC mission. Mrs. Sports encouraged and supported us with being involved with the:

- Dorchester County Lowes Hurricane Expo
- Dorchester County Mass Casualty Exercise
- Ashley Ridge High School Health Fair - Zika education exhibit

The **Mass Casualty** Exercise was an invaluable experience for all of our student victims and was our favorite activity of the year. Our students arrived at the school around 5 a.m. for moulage injuries relevant to the explosion scenario. Students were able to experience each stage of the exercise as all responding agencies performed their respective tasks.

The HOSA International Leadership Conference provided us a wonderful opportunity to share our great partnership with judges from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Office of the US Surgeon General (OSG) and the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS). We had the huge task of conveying the entirety of our events, how we reached out to the community, and how our chapter benefitted from our partnership in a five-minute interview. We were overjoyed when our name was called as a Top Ten finalist.



Ashley Ridge High School HOSA Team

Lowcountry PHRC Events and Activities

Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) Canine Program

For those of you who travel through large airports, you may have seen a K-9 dog walking through terminals with their handler working to keep us safe.

The PHRC Volunteers are now working with the TSA Canine Program at the Charleston International Airport. Volunteers act as “decoys” to assist with the dog training to keep them alert. Our volunteers blend in with passengers with their carry-on bags and will wear comfortable clothing.

Before you begin, you will have paperwork to complete and listen to a safety briefing. Once you have been a decoy, you will be able to volunteer again after three to four weeks. (If you don't wait a few weeks the dog will recognize you based on your scent and alert his handler.)

We are excited about this opportunity to assist. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ann Sports at (843) 953-0064 or sportsad@dhec.sc.gov

Neighborhood Distribution Information Point Training

A Disaster Response Training for Neighborhood Distribution Information Point, (NDIP) is going to be provided this fall. Staff from the Charleston County Emergency Management Department will provide the training. NDIPs open after a major disaster to distribute donated goods to those in need and provide the community with important disaster-related information. Stay tuned for more information and how to get involved.

2017-2018 South Carolina Oral Health Statewide Screening: Every Smile Counts

The oral health assessment is moving to the Lowcountry and is scheduled for January – March 2018. Assessments will take place in elementary schools throughout Allendale, Orangeburg, Bamberg, Calhoun, Jasper, Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton, Berkeley, Dorchester, and Colleton Counties. DHEC's Oral Health Division is seeking licensed health professionals to assist with the screening process. If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information, please contact Ann Sports at (843) 953-0064 or sportsad@dhec.sc.gov

Did You Know?

Stay up-to-date on all things public health and National Association County City Health Officials (NACCHO)-related and hear from top public health officials with NACCHO's Podcast Series featured on iTunes. You can listen to all of NACCHO's Podcasts from Washington at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-naccho-podcast-series/id891330600?mt=2>

If you have comments or suggestions regarding Palmetto Preparedness, we would like to hear from you! Please contact Deborah Beasley at (803) 898-4472 or beasleds@dhec.sc.gov, Monday – Friday from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM.

Thank you for reading
Palmetto Preparedness,
The Newsletter of the South Carolina
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